

Blood Moon rewrite

by kinigget

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Summary: borrowed with permission from Quetzeloatls, and then modified to within an inch of it's life. Hellsing has been getting strange reports out of Japan about dead bodies showing with no signs of trauma. This seems to be the sort of thing they were created to deal with, so Integra sends Seras to go investigate. What could possibly go wrong? rated T for Hellsing

## 1. Chapter 1

many thanks to Quetzeloatls for allowing me to resurrect this story for him

now

you will notice some changes

for instance I decided that there was no logical reason why Integra would order Seras destroyed outside of plot convenience, and while this means I'm going to have to wing it in places, the result should make me much happier

also: I'm setting this during the 30 years between the end of the manga and the epilogue simply because there aren't nearly enough stories out there like that and it's my story now so there

so no, Alucard will not be showing up, apologies to anyone who was looking forward to that in the original story, but again, my story now

as for how much of Bleach this is going to cover and how many recent spoilers it will contain?

well

I never watched past the beginning of the Zanpakuto Rebellion arc and

have never read the manga

I just know a lot of spoilers anyway

\_so\_

I'm just gonna stick with anime canon and see how far this gets

probably to the end of the Winter War

well, that's enough of that

On with the show!

Edit: I realized that I screwed a few things up, and also that I really actually wanted to have my chapters mirror the original as much as possible

what this means for you all is that this chapter is going to actually include Seras and Isshin's conversation, plus a bit more

\* \* \*

><p>Seras stepped off the plane, immensely thankful that she no longer had to be shipped like cargo in her coffin to cross oceans.</p>

suppressing a yawn, she mentally reviewed the task at hand: Hellsing had received word of a series of strange unexplained deaths in and around the town of Karakura in Japan. Bodies found with no signs of trauma, but were nonetheless dead. Given that Seras had (admittedly distant) family in the area, it seemed only natural that she be the one sent out to investigate.

Of course, said family hadn't learned of her death, which had the potential to be problematic. On the upside it meant that she could announce her arrival over the phone without startling the Kurosaki household too badly, but on the other hand it meant that she was going to have to remember how to act human

Ah well, she'd figure something out when she got there

anyway, there were more immediate concerns: her coffin itself did still count as cargo, so she was taking pains to conceal it in a nondescript wooden crate. Even if she didn't exactly need it the way she used to, it still helped a lot

fortunately, language wasn't going to be a problem. It had been years, but she still had a rudimentary grasp of Japanese from the last time she'd been in the country, though that would probably improve with her first meal

speaking of which, how was she going to feed herself? She knew the Kurosaki's ran a clinic, but that ran into her old hangup of taking blood that was meant to save lives, and besides, she figured they kept track of their stock. She could always go for the old standby of "wander back alleys until someone tries something and then eat them", but then she had discovered that she was a bit of a picky eater. She'd really rather not have the souls of people she despised running

around inside her if she could help it, besides, it wouldn't be fair to Pip.

well

another problem that could be resolved later, when she was actually hungry

\* \* \*

><p>Isshin Kurosaki was concerned</p>

he'd been tracking a strange reishi signal all day

a reishi signal that was approaching his house

a reishi signal that was approaching his at the same time as his distant niece was supposed to be arriving

this was, put simply, a problem

whether it was the sort of problem that required a zanpakuto to deal with was uncertain, but he wasn't discounting the possibility

he would do whatever he had to to protect his children, even if it meant blowing his cover

he just hoped it wouldn't come to that

the signal arrived

and then, against all logic, the doorbell rang

now rather more curious than uneasy, Isshin decided that opening the door probably wasn't the worst thing he could do in this situation

he wasn't entirely sure what expected to see on the other side, but the busty blonde girl with an unnervingly toothy grin was decidedly not it

"Hello! sorry for showing up on short notice like that, it's been a long time hasn't it?"

Isshin stared for a moment as his brain caught up to the fact that it did indeed appear to be one Seras Victoria standing before him, despite the fact that last he'd heard, Seras was human.

"yeah no kidding, what are you?"

Seras' face collapsed

"wha...? how did you know?"

"just answer the question"

"well...um...this may sound a bit ridiculous, but I'm a vampire"

Isshin simply continued to stare

"a vampire"

"that's what I said, please don't make me prove it"

"no, no, it's just...vampires are real?"

"I was just as surprised when I found out believe you me, granted,\_  
I\_ found out when Dracula himself shot me in the chest and then drank  
my blood"

"\_Dracula's\_ real?"

"and until I drink his blood, he is my master, yes"

"...you'd better come in"

\* \* \*

><p>"so let me get this straight, you were turned by Dracula himself,  
who now goes by the name of Alucard and serves the Hellsing  
organization, which then recruited you to hunt <em>other<em>  
vampires?"

Seras managed not to roll her eyes.

"for the last time \_yes\_, and the Zeppelin Incident \_was\_ in fact the  
work of Nazi vampires, and I helped my master put an end to it,  
though at great cost"

Isshin managed to look sheepish.

"sorry, it's just...this is a whole new kind of weird for  
me"

"imagine how \_I\_ \_felt"

"right, so how much of the myth is true?"

Seras started ticking off items on her fingers.

"well, garlic does nothing to me, but silver, especially blessed  
silver, burns like a hot poker, I can withstand the light of the sun,  
but I really don't like it and it does weaken me, I had to sleep in a  
coffin for half a year, and it still helps me maintain my power, I  
once saw my master come back from being \_decapitated\_, but then he  
had millions of souls within him at the time, and I only have the  
one"

Isshin startled, \_this\_ was alarming to say the least.

"wait, back up, did you say souls? \_within\_ him?"

Seras looked at him quizzically

"yes, when a vampire drinks the blood of a living human, they absorb  
that person's soul into their own being to increase their power"  
Seras noticed that Isshin had gone slightly pale at this "is  
something wrong?"

Isshin's mind was racing, he was \_definitely \_going to need to have a talk with Urahara about this.

but he had more pressing concerns at this moment, like finding out just how dangerous his niece had become.

"no, nothing, never mind, anyway, you said you only had the one, care to explain?"

sensing the question behind the question, simply answered "he was already dying and gave me his blood willingly. I have never actively hunted humans, and see no reason to do so so long as I have access to medical blood"

this seemed to reassure Isshin somewhat, though he still looked guarded

"so then why are you here?"

now it was Seras' turn to look guarded.

"I don't know how much I can say beyond the fact that I'm on a mission. I honestly shouldn't even have told you about Hellsing, we are supposed to be a secret organization after all"

"I suppose I can't argue with that. Well then, I suppose you can have the guest room on the north wall, it gets the least sun"

Seras grinned at him, inadvertently showing off her fangs again

"thank you, this means a lot"

"just go get your coffin"

\* \* \*

><p>the next morning, Isshin watched suspiciously as Seras introduced herself to the twins, it was no surprise they didn't know her, given that they'd both been babies the last time she'd been around. So far she seemed to be acting normal, if somewhat sleepy. She was also noticeably (to Isshin) attempting to stay out of direct sunlight as much as possible.</p>

well

she only had about ten more minutes before the girls left for school, he figured she'd be fine

hearing the telltale sounds of Ichigo coming down the stairs, Isshin grinned silently to himself, maneuvered into an ambush position, waited for the opportune moment, then launched himself at the stairwell with a yell

all he got for his trouble was a foot to the face

Ichigo proceeded to ignore his father's profuse compliments on his form and timing

then he noticed Seras, and blinked in confusion

"who the hell are you?"

Seras, for her part, looked hurt

"I'm your cousin Seras, don't you remember?

Ichigo frowned, thinking. Now that he thought about it, he did remember something about a distant cousin living in England, but the last time he'd seen her was ten years ago

"oh yeah, I guess I do"

"It's nice to see you again after all these years, I hope you don't mind, but I'll be staying here for a while"

"what for?"

"She's on a secret mission from her government!" supplied Yuzu excitedly

"somehow I doubt that" Karin replied lazily, more focused on pushing her cereal around her bowl with a spoon

"Sometimes you'll find that truth is far stranger than fiction" seras said with a laugh. "Anyway, I'll see you guys later tonight okay? My plane got in really late last night, so I'm going back to bed for awhile". The others nodded their assent and she left them to finishing their breakfast. She may have been far more powerful now than she was as a freshly-turned fledgling, but she still had a hard time staying up for long after the sun had risen and she was rapidly approaching her limit. Upon reaching her room, she headed immediately for the closet where her coffin was being kept and climbed in, sighing with relief when the lid clicked shut and blocked the sunlight. She was going to make damn sure that she never reached the point of starvation around those girls, it wasn't like back home where the only people she had to worry about hurting were soldiers who would shoot her if she tried anything. Fortunately, Isshin had agreed to give her access to the clinic's supply of medical blood, just so long as she didn't deplete his stock too much and stuck to the packs that were nearing expiration.

20 minutes later, Isshin was sending Ichigo off to school. He snuck a glance at the room Seras was staying in. She had warned him that waking a sleeping vampire was a tough job at best, and a dangerous undertaking at worst. However, this did give him the chance he needed to go talk to one of his few friends in the living world.

If anyone could tell him what the hell he was dealing with, it was Kisuke Urahara

\* \* \*

><p>Kisuke wondered what it said about him that the story Isshin was telling him was not the weirdest thing he'd ever heard of. Still, this was one of the better ones. "are you <em>sure <em>it's actually your niece and not something imitating her?" he asked as he poured the tea. Isshin shook his head morosely, "Yes, I'm sure, and that's the problem. She talked about absorbing souls Kisuke, doesn't that sound suspicious to you?"

"while I'll grant you that it is unsettling, she said she came here for a mission right? She was probably hoping that she could get here, do whatever it is she's doing, and then leave before you noticed anything about her. I certainly don't believe that she means you any harm"

Isshin nodded, sipping his tea

"I suppose you have a point"

"this could save you a lot of trouble you know" said Kisuke, snapping his fan for emphasis

Isshin frowned at him

"how? and with what?"

those seals I placed on Ichigo aren't going to last forever you know, he's simply becoming too strong. Your little vampire may be able to keep him out of trouble"

Isshin considered this

"that may be, but how exactly am I supposed to ask her to protect him from Hollows without giving away my own secret?

Kisuke just smiled from behind his fan

"you did say her Reiatsu was strong, if unusual, sooner or later a Hollow is going to notice her, let her find out on her own" he suggested cheerfully

"that might not be the best idea you know" Isshin responded drily

"you can't deny that it would work. How powerful would you say she is?"

"right now? somewhere around that of a tenth seat, but she hasn't been a vampire for long, and true power takes time"

"well then I'm sure she'll be fine!"

"you're impossible, you know that right?"

Kisuke just laughed

\* \* \*

><p>I realized that I'm writing Isshin as rather unconcerned with the fact that he just let a monster into his house<p>

just imagine that he's ready to strike at a moment's notice through the whole thing

couldn't really come up with a way to get that across that didn't seem needlessly intrusive to me

I nearly just skipped the whole thing, but that wasn't gonna

work

anyway, I hope I'm doing at least a half-decent job of keeping everyone in character. Seras is kind of hard because of how much she changed over the course of that night while still staying basically the same kind and innocent young girl she always was, and striking that balance is proving difficult

I also just realized how much work I've given myself by changing things the way I have

but then I did that to myself, so I really have no right to complain

so yes

chapter one

done properly this time

now on to actually writing chapter 2 instead of obsessively editing what I already have

also: periods are the bane of my existence

## 2. Chapter 2

alright, actual chapter 2 this time

by the way, I love the fact that people are favoriting and following this, but please, please leave me reviews, it's only way I have to improve my writing

anyway, this is where things start to pick up a little bit

so without further ado, let's get to it

\* \* \*

><p>The first week in Karakura went well, apart from having to report her complete lack of progress to Integra every day. She may have sounded calm, but Seras knew her master's master well enough to tell that she was getting impatient. In more domestic concerns, she had started working nights at a convenience store across town. It wasn't as if she was being a burden on the Kurosaki household's food budget, but she decided that she'd rather not feel like a freeloader despite Isshin's protestations that she really didn't have to.</p>

Speaking of Isshin, she was glad to see he hadn't changed at all, ambushing Ichigo in the halls, dive-bombing his bed at 4 a.m., and generally keeping his son on edge at all times. She was just glad he was smart enough not to try to sneak up on a sleeping vampire. She'd feel terrible if she accidentally killed him in her sleep.

The second week, on the other hand, had been interesting....

\* \* \*

><p>It had been a beautiful night, tugging at her instincts to just

run wild and hunt, so here she was in the park soaking in the moonlight and trying to ignore that second bit. She was just starting to wonder if leaving her Harkonnen behind had been a mistake, snickering a bit at the thought of Isshin's expression when he saw her lugging a gun nearly twice her size.<p>

Then she heard it

The telltale sounds of something trying sneak up on her.

She frowned, annoyed at herself for not noticing sooner and disdainful of the creature for daring to try to get the drop on a vampire. And so, she decided to teach it a bit of a lesson in manners

Finally, the creature came charging out of the trees with a roar. Seras elected to simply jump straight over it, twisting in the air to come down in a crouch.

The whatever-it-was was huge, nearly 8 feet tall and shaped somewhat like a vaguely humanoid dog. However, the detail that stuck out most in Seras' mind was the bone-white mask on it's face.

It roared again, spinning to face her, hair-like quills on it's back bristling. Well, if it was a fight it wanted, Seras was more than happy to oblige

She snarled right back at the creature, letting her left arm dissolve into a cluster of writhing shadowy tendrils

Ducking it's first wild swing, Seras raked at the things side with her shadows, but could tell she was only doing superficial damage at best, so she leaped onto it's back, intent on carving her way up to it's head.

Unfortunately, the creature seemed to sense what she was trying to do and rolled over on it's back trying to crush her.

Cursing, Seras barely managed to jump clear in time. This gave the monster the opportunity it needed to backhand her into a nearby tree hard enough to break it in two.

Standing up, and now thoroughly enraged, Seras stalked towards the thing, which reared up and roared at her, seemingly in an attempt to make itself look bigger

all this did was expose it's throat to her

This was a mistake

Seras moved as though luunched from a cannon, striking the creature dead in the center of it's chest and knocking it over backwards, now lost in a haze of rage and bloodlust, Seras wasted no time latching onto it's throat with all the force of a bear trap.

Thick black blood pured down her throat as the creatures struggles weakened, trying to dislodge her to the very end

Seras had thought she understood what it meant to be a vampire when she had eaten Pip, but this? This was something entirely new. The

feeling of raw power washing over her was like nothing she had ever felt.

Her shadows reached out and enveloped the creature as it dissolved into motes of light, absorbing every one.

\* \* \*

><p>That had been a week ago. She had immediately called Integra to inform her of her discovery and declare her mission complete. After all, the creature's blood had told her that it had been preying on human souls.</p>

Of course, \_then\_ it turned out that there were \_more\_ of the damn things, so it looked like she was here more or less indefinitely.

Well, that was alright, there hadn't been any vampire attacks worth noting in England since Millennium had been destroyed. She would come home if Integra called for her, but she doubted that was going to happen any time soon. For now, this was her sole mission.

Apparently the thing was called a "Hollow", as she had learned when she had shown up on Isshin's doorstep, dripping with the blood of the last one she had killed and demanding answers.

Which was why she was currently sitting on a rooftop listening for the telltale cry of a Hollow

As near as Seras could figure from what Isshin had told her, these Hollow things were a sort of demon, souls that had lingered too long in the living world and been consumed by their anger and regret, eating the souls of others in a vain attempt to fill the emptiness within them

Truly pitiable creatures then, perhaps even more so than her own species

a roar echoed across the sky

well then

time to get to work

She leapt off the roof, reforming her left arm into a giant wing as she did.

It was odd, she had started noticing that her personality was starting to slowly shift towards her missing master's with every bit of blood she drank. Her control over her shadows was getting better too, so there was that at least.

In a few moments she was over the Hollow, dragging her out of her reverie.

This one was stalking a pair of teenagers

A pair of teenagers who seemed to neither see nor hear the giant misshapen monster bearing down on them

This struck Seras as odd, but then she had more pressing concerns

Like saving the poor idiots' lives

Dismissing her wing, she dropped out of the sky like a stone, impacting the monster's back like an artillery shell, already ripping and tearing with shadowy claws as she landed. the hollow screamed and reared back, trying to throw her off, but to no avail as simply ducked around the flailing claws, reaching out with tendrils of shadow and breaking it's arms as she went, and sank her fangs into it's throat

Raw power poured down her throat and her shadows grew and stretched in response, wrapping around both the hollow and herself, holding it down as she fed. Soon enough the creature stilled and broke into fragments of blue light, all of which were absorbed by her shadows. She sat there crouched for a moment longer, little more than a pair of glowing red eyes in a mass of living darkness. Seras wondered what her master would think if he could see her now. she'd come so far from the scared little police girl he had turned that night, and while she was still hesitant to hunt humans, it seemed that as long as she stayed here she wouldn't have to. Just one of these Hollow things could keep her fed for days.

the cry of another hollow pulled her back to reality. She considered letting it go, she'd just eaten after all, but then realized that the sound was coming from worryingly close to her new home.

a moment of cold fear swept through her, quickly replaced by rage

still largely just a mass of shadows, Seras took to the air once more

as she approached, she noticed that not only was the hollow close to her house, it was directly across the street...

Seras was about to dive at this new threat when a small girl dressed all in black burst out of the door with a sword already raised to slash at the hollow.

Now this was new. Seras wondered just what exactly the girl had been doing in her home and what she thought she was doing going up against a hollow with a sword

The girl was knocked back and the hollow reared up, giving Seras a view of it's other arm, revealing that it had Karin in it's grasp

Rage threatened to overtake her, but some instinct held her back, realizing that something important was about to happen

Ichigo chose this moment to appear in the doorway, instantly charging at the monster holding his sister with...

...

a broken chair leg

well, if nothing else, Seras would give him points for courage,

seeing this new challenger, the hollow turned and slashed at Ichigo

only to connect with the girl in black, who had seen what was about to happen and crossed the intervening distance faster than even Seras could follow.

Seras was too far away to hear what they said to each other, but it culminated in the girl impaling Ichigo on her sword

one flash of light later, the girl was dressed in a simple white robe, while Ichigo was dressed in the odd black uniform the girl had been wearing, complete with an oversized sword, which he proceeded to remove the Hollow's arm with, freeing Karin. The hollow itself fell soon after.

two more howls, it seemed that massive burst of power had drawn some unwanted attention

Seras hit one at a dive even as Ichigo turned to face the other one, too focused on the fight to even notice her until the Hollow he was fighting was reduced to specks of light.

He stared at the mass of writhing shadows that made up Seras' form, taking an involuntary step backward when she detached herself from the rapidly fading hollow and turned to face him, as she pulled herself back into a more human shape.

Ichigo was just getting more confused, "Okay, does someone wanna tell me what's going on here?"

Seras sighed and opened her mouth to answer, only to be interrupted when the girl, still bleeding heavily, staggered over, "What are you waiting for you idiot? she's clearly some kind of Hollow! Attack!" she yelled, clearly in pain. Ichigo just looked back and forth between them, clearly still confused and getting annoyed.

"What? Like hell am I hollow!". Seras decided she didn't like this girl very much.

"then what are you? And why do you look like my cousin?"

okay

that was it

"Ichigo?" she said sweetly, Ichigo looked wary

"Yes?" he answered

Seras turned and decked him

"that would be because I am your cousin you moron! And I happen to be a vampire, not a hollow!"

Ichigo's eyes widened in shock, and then rolled back into his head as

he collapsed, whether from the blunt force trauma, the revelation, or both, was not immediately apparent.

Seras stared for a moment before turning to the other girl, incredulity written on her face. "did he just \_faint\_\_?\_"

the girl, for her part, looked just as surprised as Seras

"okay, you, start talking", the girl flinched, but seemed to find some inner resolve

"I'm not telling you anything, Hollow!" she snapped, Seras just rolled her eyes

"didn't I just get done saying that I'm not a Hollow? I'm a vampire dammit!"

the girl just snorted, "vampires are a myth!" she shot back, trying (and failing) to act brave in the face of the unknown. Seras just stared at her a while longer before a slow smile took over her face

"you know what? I don't actually need you to tell me anything do I? I can just take it", Seras stepped forward, grinning widely, fangs fully on display

the girl's eyes widened as she tried to backpedal, but she was far too slow. Seras pinned her to wall, carefully biting into her neck, the girl continued to struggle for a second before passing out from sheer terror. Seras had thought that Hollow blood was the most potent thing she would ever come across, but it was nothing compared to this. Honestly, it was a good thing she had eaten not five minutes ago, otherwise she might have drained this girl, ah, Rukia, that was her name, dry. Images, memories, flashed before Seras' eyes, telling her all she needed to know about the girl and what she had done to Ichigo. However, before she had a chance to sort through those memories, a tap on her shoulder brought her focus back to the real world. She glanced back over her shoulder to see Kisuke Urahara, the shopkeeper Isshin had introduced her too after her first encounter with a hollow.

"Why hello there Seras!" he said, tone seemingly mild. Seras caught the implied command and obligingly released Rukia, licking the fang marks to help them heal. The girl, now thoroughly unconscious, slumped over her shoulder

"was there something you wanted? she asked drily, Kisuke beamed like a miniature sun

"Indeed there is! I must ask you to keep your promise to kill only Hollows miss Dracula"

Seras stared for a moment before shaking her head

"I never should have told you who my sire was"

"Nope!"

Seras just sighed, this night had gotten far too complicated for her taste

\* \* \*

><p>and there it is!</p>

I even managed to figure out how to deal with my changes to the overarching plot

for now at least, there's a couple more places where it's gonna be relevant before I start breaking new ground

on another note, writing action has turned out to be a lot easier than I thought it was gonna be, so that's good at least

okay then!

on to the next!

### 3. Chapter 3

you know, I still have some eleven chapters left of stuff I'm just adapting, you'd think I could do this faster

and I haven't even gotten to the fun part yet

at least I'm starting to get a feel for my own writing style, which was half the point of this exercise anyway

anyway, on with the show

\* \* \*

><p>Ichigo slowly forced his eyes open and blinked at his room with some confusion. That had been one hell of a dream he'd had, weird monsters, bossy girls with swords, and his cousin as a vampire?</p>

yeah

he'd have to figure out what had brought that on and make sure he never did it ever again

"what exactly did I do yesterday to end up with a dream like that?"

"I'm afraid that was no dream dear cousin"

Ichigo started, he hadn't seen Seras sitting on the end of his bed

smiling

with lots of teeth

noticing Ichigo flinch involuntarily Seras sighed

"Ichigo, I've been here for a month and I haven't eaten you yet, why would I do it now?"

"well...yeah...but..." Ichigo's mind flailed wildly for a way out, what it found just made him panic \_more\_ "Oh shit! Karin! Yuzu! are they okay?"

Seras smiled warmly "They're fine, your dad is looking after them now, you can relax"

Ichigo looked relieved, but still somewhat distrustful

"oh for pity's sake I already told you I'm not going to eat you, stop looking at me like that"

"but...don't vampires basically eat humans?

Seras shook her head "well, normally yes, but for one I can count the number of humans I've drained to death on one hand, and they were all going to die anyway, and for another I can eat Hollows, so it's a moot point anyway"

"Hollows...is that what those monsters from last night are called? and I...actually killed one? I just remember getting stabbed, it all goes a bit...fuzzy after that"

"You didn't kill one..." said Seras, hiding a grin when Ichigo's face fell "you killed two!"

she accepted the pillow to the face as her just punishment, but never stopped smiling

\* \* \*

><p>Ichigo sat down on his bed that night after what felt like the longest day of his life. Which was saying something given what he'd been through last night</p>

Rukia turning up at his school would have been bad enough, but then she had proceeded to inform him that he was now a "substitute Soul Reaper", and had impressed the duties the office held on him in the most direct manner possible.

He had to admit that Rukia was right that he couldn't just save only the spirits he saw and ignore everything else, but it was still a pretty big responsibility for a high schooler you know?

But still, if he had the power to protect someone, there was no way in hell he wasn't going to do just that

and oh yeah, apparently heaven was a real place

so there was that too

"Bad day?" asked Seras, startling him out of his reverie, "you want my advice? Take a nap. It'll make more sense in the morning"

Ichigo gave her a look

"do you have \_any\_ idea what I've just gotten myself into?"

"as a matter of fact I do" she replied, looking immensely pleased with herself

"what? how?"

"I'm a vampire remember? when I drink a person's blood I get their memories, everything that makes them who they are. I caught Rukia before she could escape and fed from her a bit. It was a lot easier than trying to interrogate her. Point is, yes, I do know what you've gotten yourself into, probably a lot better than you do"

"wait, what does that mean?"

Seras looked distant for a moment "I'm not entirely sure, just that there's a lot she isn't telling you. Just...go with it for now and I'll see what I can put together"

"didn't you just say you had her memories though?" Ichigo was beginning to run low on patience

"look Ichigo, getting someones memories is like being handed a box full of unmarked photographs and being told to put them in chronological order, it's going to take me a while to sort out what's important and what isn't. I really don't have much experience with this"

Seras noticed the distress writ plainly on Ichigo's features and relented

"In any case, I'll do whatever I can to help but I'm not going out during the day except for dire emergencies, okay?"

and then a thought struck

"you know, you've gotten used to the idea of me being a vampire pretty quickly"

Ichigo's wary look told her that bringing that up had probably been a mistake

but then wariness turned to curiosity

"so...uh...how did you...you know..."

"die?" Seras provided

Ichigo winced, then nodded

Seras settled back and gazed into space for a bit before finally starting

"it was a little over a year ago. I was sent with the rest of my unit to a village called Cheddar. Oh right, I forgot to mention that I was a police officer didn't I? Well anyway, we'd had reports of disappearances for months, so my unit was sent in expecting a crime ring of some sort. What we got was zombies. Turns out a vampire had taken up residence in the town posing as a priest and by the time we got there the entire town had been turned into his were slaughtered. I was the only one left when the vampire himself caught me, he was just describing to me, in detail, how he was going to rape me before eating me so I'd just become one of his ghouls. Then Alucard showed

up. Well, I call him Alucard because that's the name I first heard him called by, but you'd probably know him better as Vlad Dracul"

needless to say, this caught Ichigo's attention

"wait, you mean \_dracula!?\_"

"the very same, now if you'll let me finish?"

"er, sorry, go ahead"

"thank you, now, the vampire priest attempted to use me as hostage, a bargaining chip, and a meat shield all at the same time. As I said, by this point I was the only survivor, and the vampire priest tried to use me to get Alucard to let him go, holding me in front of him the whole time. Instead Alucard told me that he planned to shoot through me to get to the priest, but that he could turn me and take me with him. I accepted"

"and that" said Seras with a bit of a flourish "is the story of how I died"

Seras smiled at Ichigo for a bit before glancing towards his closet

"if you found the story so fascinating, why don't you come out Rukia?"

Ichigo looked confused

"what are you..."

the closet door snapped open, revealing one de-powered shinigami wearing an expression somewhere between profound confusion and abject terror

"what the hell?" Ichigo yelled, jumping off his bed "what are you doing in there?!"

any response that may have been forthcoming was cut off by Rukia's phone ringing

Rukia flipped it open and studied it for a second before her eyes widened in shock. two seconds later she had produced a fingerless glove with some kind of flaming skull decal and simply shoved Ichigo with it

Ichigo, for his part, cried out in confusion as his body went one way while his soul went another

just in time for a clawed arm to break through the wall where he had been standing not moments before and knocked Seras clear through the opposite wall

Ichigo needed no prompting to draw his sword

"aim for the mask!" yelled Rukia as he was sent sprawling from a badly-timed block

Ichigo was back on his feet immediately, and this time actually managed to land a glancing blow on the Hollow's mask

which cracked

revealing the human face lying beneath

The hollow screamed in pain and decided that discretion was the better part of valor, disappearing into a shadowy portal of some kind

Ichigo was still standing there frozen, the face he had just seen filling his mind

Rukia looked on and sighed, she didn't have time for this

"come on, we need to go find that Hollow!"

this at least managed to snap Ichigo back to reality

"what the hell? that was Orihime's brother!"

Rukia winced, this was worse than she'd thought

"I'll just say this: Attack from behind and kill with one strike, this is the most basic rule there is for fighting Hollows. Never forget it"

Ichigo had never heard Rukia sound quite so solemn

"but why?"

"for one, it reduces casualties, but more importantly, that way you never have to see the hollow's identity"

"what do you mean \_identity\_?" asked ichigo, though he had a sinking feeling he already knew

"you saw it didn't you? Hollows...were all originally human souls"

Ichigo's eyes hardened

"you never told me that! He's not a monster!"

"a monster is all that's left of him now" Rukia replied evenly

"but he used to be human!"

Rukia shook her head

"be it anger or sadness, the souls of those who still have an attachment to this world tend to refuse burial by us Soul Reapers, and so are left to wander the world. Over time, whether they want it or not, they become Hollows. It is our job to kill them before they can hurt others" she said quietly "now let's go, and hope he hasn't done any more damage"

\* \* \*

><p>Seras cursed as she phased her way through the house. Undead or not, getting punched through a building <em>hurt<em>

she was just getting ready to run out the door when Isshin all but materialized at her side, grabbed her by the scruff of the neck, and simply lifted her off her feet.

Seras aimed her best glare at him, but he just shook his head

"he has to learn to fight his own battles Seras, you can't always be there to save him"

it should be noted that even as he said this, he looked uncomfortable, and when a resounding crash echoed through the house even he was barely restraining the urge to rush over and help

"I will not let some damned Hollow hurt Ichigo!" she snarled as she twisted in his grip, expecting him to be overcome by her inhuman strength

imagine her surprise when his grip only got tighter

"how the hell?"

"Seras, neither I nor my children are human, even if they don't know it yet, I would've expected you to have figured that out by now" he said drily

Seras just blinked at him in confusion

"clearly your observational skills need work"

"what? you're normal enough, and the only weird thing about your kids is that they can see ghosts!"

another attempt at breaking Isshin's grip ended in miserable failure

"that's because they're still alive, and I know how to hide" he answered brightly

"then...what are you?"

"now that I'm afraid must remain secret at least a little while longer. Now, I think it's been long enough, go make sure nothing too terrible has happened to Ichigo"

"Yes sir" Seras nodded, choosing for the moment to ignore the fact that she might not be the strangest thing in her family after all

instead, she disappeared through the wall, chasing her trouble magnet of a cousin

\* \* \*

><p>before anyone asks, yes I did swap in the version of Seras' turning from the T.V. anime, because I like that it makes it clear that it actually <em>was<em> her choice. I also decided to expand that part out a bit from the original, you know, given that expanding

on things is one of the things I need to work on most.

I'm still trying to keep this more or less in line with the original, but I'm starting to feel a bit more comfortable making changes and turning this into something more my own.

I'm also debating adding chapter titles, but can't decide how to go about it

anyway, let me know what you think, I am \_desperate\_ for feedback

End  
file.